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April 28, 1911

MUKDEN—Declared Free from Plague.

On April 17 a telegram was received at the Department of State from the American consul general at Mukden reporting that his consular district was free from plague.

Consul General Fisher had previously reported by letter dated March 13:

The number of deaths from plague in Mukden during the week ended March 11 was 146, as compared with 163 deaths during the week ended March 4, 177 during the week ended February 25, and 221 during the week ended February 18. The number of deaths for March 11 and 12 was 9 and 11, respectively.

Conditions at the other open towns in south Manchuria continue to show improvement. At Kirin the latest reports show an average of 2 deaths a day. At Changchun 147 deaths were reported during the week ended March 9, as compared with 207 during the week ended March 22, 409 during the week ended February 23, and 513 during the week ended February 16. At Tiehling, Kaiyuan, and Liaoyang from 2 to 5 deaths are now reported daily from each. No recent reports are at hand from Fakumen. At Hsinmintun 68 deaths are reported for the week ended March 7, as compared with 74 for the week ended February 28.

The region between Ninguta and Hunchun is reported still free from infection. This is perhaps due to the difficult means of transportation, owing to the heavy snowfall in the district.

The local sanitary department reports a total of 31,432 plague deaths in Manchuria to March 10. Of this number 1,656 deaths occurred at Mukden.

In south Manchuria there appears to be a considerable revival of business. The cart traffic between the interior and the different grain markets along the railway and the river, which was interrupted by the plague epidemic, is now being resumed.

SHANGHAI—Fumigation of Lighters.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, March 14:

The foreign lighter companies at Shanghai have agreed to fumigate their fleets at least once in every three months for the destruction of rats, the work of fumigation to be done under the supervision of this office, and the shipping agents have agreed to employ only fumigated lighters in transferring cargo to vessels loading for American ports. This eliminates the native-owned cargo boats and sampans from the business of lightering, and these were probably the chief source of danger from infection, as they are inhabited not only by entire families, but also by numerous rats and other animals. The fumigation of each boat will be certified to the shipping agent before cargo is taken for American ports.